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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07
OMB-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 DODE-00
(ISO) W
----------160352Z 013488 /70
R 140400Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3482
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
DEA HQS WASHDC

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BANGKOK FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, TH, BM
SUBJ: BURMESE PRESS ARTICLES CALL FOR THAI/BURMA COOPERATION IN SUPPRESSING DRUG TRAFFIC

REF: RANGOON MSG DTG 110725Z MAY 77

SUMMARY
ARTICLES NOTED REFTEL PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO GUB ATTITUDES TOWARD THAI COOPERATION ON ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS. THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY WRITTEN TO POINT OUT BURMA'S ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS AND TO STIMULATE THE THAIS INTO GREATER ACTIVITY. THE ARTICLES QUOTE STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE AND DONALD MILLER CALLING FOR GREATER THAI/BURMA COOPERATION TO SUPPRESS NARCOTICS TRAFFIC, AND POINT OUT GUB EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD. WHILE THE ARTICLES NOTE SOME THAI FAILURES, THEY END ON AN UPBEAT TONE ANTICIPATING GREATER THAI COOPERATIONS AGAINST INSURGENT GROUPS ALONG THE COMMON FRONTIER. THE GUB CERTAINLY EXPECTS THAT THIS SERIES WILL BE GIVEN
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DUE ATTENTION BY THE RTG AND USG. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SERIES OF ARTICLES OUTLINED IN REFTEL PROVIDES AN INSIGHT INTO GUB ATTITUDES TOWARD THAI/BURMA COOPERATION IN ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS AND RELATED ISSUES. WHILE ALL ITEMS APPEARING IN BURMA'S CONTROLLED PRESS MUST HAVE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, THIS SERIES WAS INSPIRED AND ORCHES-

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TRATED BY THE GUB FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE. THE ARTICLES CHIDE THE RTG FOR PAST FAILURES AND SHORTCOMINGS IN NARCOTICS CONTROL; PRAISE IT FOR SOME RECENT EFFORTS; AND URGE GREATER COOPERATION FROM THE RTG IN SUPPRESSING DRUG TRAFFIC.

2. THEY NOTE THAT THE DRUGS ORIGINATE IN THE MUTUAL THAI/ BURMA/LAOS GOLDEN TRIANGLE AND ARE REFINED ALONG THE THAI/ BURMA BORDER FROM WHICH THEY ARE SENT TO BANGKOK FOR WORLD-WIDE DISTRIBUTION. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE TRAFFICKING OUT OF BANGKOK, THE ARTICLES CITE THE RECENT ARREST OF THE SON OF THE THAI MILITARY ATTACHE IN PARIS FOR ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE HEROIN INTO FRANCE.

3. THE ARTICLE THEN SKIPS QUICKLY TO THE RECENT REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE AT BANGKOK. IT QUOTES THAI PRIME MINISTER THANIN'S REMARKS AT THE CONFERENCE SAYING HE PRAISED THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION THAILAND RECEIVED IN ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND ASSURING THAT THE ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN WOULD CONTINUE TO BE A "FIRST PRIORITY." IT ALSO QUOTES AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE'S STATEMENT THAT "THAI-BURMESE COOPERATION IS A SINE QUA NON OF EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA."

4. THESE, STATES THE BURMESE AUTHOR, "ARE ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS FOR IT HAS GENERALLY BEEN KNOWN THAT INSURGENT-TRAFFICKERS HAVE TRADITIONALLY FOUND EASY SANCTUARY INSIDE THAI TERRITORY, AND THAT BOTH THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THE KMT REMNANTS HAVE BEEN USED AS A POLITICAL BUFFER -- BY PREVIOUS THAI REGIMES." FURTHER, "PRESSURE AND POSITIVE ACTION FROM BANGKOK SHOULD HELP STEM THE CULTIVATION AND OUTFLOW OF OPIUM AND ITS DERIVATIES."

5. THE ARTICLES ALSO NOTE U.S. DELEGATE DONALD E. MILLER'S STATEMENT TO THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS LAST FEBRUARY THAT BURMA AND THAILAND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND ASSISTED TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC. IN THE SAME VEIN THE ARTICLES QUOTE AN UNNAMED ANALYST'S OBSERVATION THAT "THE COMBINED EFFECTS OF ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS BY BOTH THE THAIS AND BURMESE HAS INCREASED THE ELEMENT OF RISK FOR THE TRAFFICKERS AND WILL MAKE OPIUM LESS ATTRACTIVE TO THE FOREIGNERS."

6. THE MAIN GIST OF THE ARTICLES WAS THAT BURMA WAS DOING WELL IN SUPPRESSING THE CULTIVATION AND TRANSPORTATION OF OPIUM, BUT IT NEEDS THE COOPERATION OF THE THAIS AND MORE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO DO THE JOB

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EFFECTIVELY. IT WAS CLEARLY AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE THE RTG
INTO GREATER COOPERATION AGAINST INSURGENT GROUPS ALONG
THE BURMA/THAI FRONTIER.

7. THE ARTICLES WERE BOTH FOR DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL CON-
SUMPTION. DOMESTICALLY, THEY FIT IN WITH THE CURRENT PRESS CAMPAIGN
AGAINST NARCOTICS: EXTERNALLY. WHILE
FOREIGN READERSHIP IS
VERY LIMITED, THE ARTICLES WERE BOUND TO REACH THE
INTENDED TARGET AUDIENCE, THIS EMBASSY AND THE THAI
EMBASSY. WHILE THE GUB IS PROBABLY STILL SKEPTICAL THAT
RTG WILL EVER
MOVE EFFECTIVELY AGAINST THE INSURGENTS/TRAFFICKERS
THE COMPARATIVELY UPBEAT TONE ABOUT RECENT ACTIVITIES
IS NEW AND POSSIBLY SIGNIFICANT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2522925
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURMESE PRESS ARTICLES CALL FOR THAI/BURMA COOPERATION IN SUPPRESSING DRUG TRAFFIC
TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, TH, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9345d593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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